

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action dated February 2, 2007.

Claims 56, 57, 80, an 81 are cancelled. Claims 55, 58, 64-65, and 78, 79, and 82-84 are now pending in this application.

Allowed Claims

Claims 55, 64, 78-79, 83, and 84 are allowed. The Office Action does not explicitly mention claim 65 and Applicant presumes it is allowable.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 56-58 and 80-82 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Miltich et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,402,793). Claims 56, 57, 80, and 81 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 58 and 82

Regarding the subject matter of claims 58 and 82, which recite: using an uninterrupted welding process, Applicant cannot find such subject matter in the cited reference and Applicant believes the claims are not anticipated. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 359-3267 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 8 day of July 2007.

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